

Community Supports for people with developmental disabilities

Idaho Partners in Policymaking

Information for Adults and Parents

Idaho Partners in Policymaking is a project of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. The program's overall goal is to empower people with disabilities and family members to achieve successful partnerships with Idaho's policymakers.

This program is a way to influence public policy and legislation at all levels of government, to have a voice in the development and implementation of public policy.

Idaho is one of 42 states that are training leaders for the 21st century. More than 5,000 graduates in those states have achieved great success in influencing public policy that govern disability issues.

The graduates have served on state and national level committees or boards, presented testimony to state and federal legislative bodies, ran for public office, and have had an influence on schools, employers and local governments.

The Idaho program will follow the national model. The training or curriculum is competency-based, ensuring that all participants achieve a high level of skill

prior to graduation. It is an eight-month intensive training program that educates participants in the most effective strategies for successful advocacy.

It provides state-of-the-art knowledge from state and national leaders about today's disability issues. It also creates partnerships between participants and policy makers at all levels of government.

Idaho Partners will receive 128 hours of intensive studies, in eight two-day training sessions, once each month. They will learn from national and state leaders in the disability field, participate in a variety of learning techniques, complete homework assignments and projects, and participate in a mock hearing at the State Capitol in Boise.

There is no cost to the participant for this training. Training includes history of disability; how to achieve inclusion in education; supported and competitive employment; housing; assistive technology; parliamentary procedure; advocacy; and state and federal legislation.

Upon graduation, **Idaho Partners** will help other advocates to educate policymakers in their communities, school systems, and in local, state and federal governments about disability issues and solutions. **Idaho Partners** will contribute to the efforts of other disability advocates within the international disability rights movement.

To qualify for participation in this program, applicants must be an adult with a developmental disability or the parent of a young child (age 10 and under) with a developmental disability. Trainees selected for the program will represent various areas of the state, a range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and a variety of developmental disabilities.

For all **Idaho Partner** graduates to network with each other across the U.S. and around the world, an electronic bulletin board and an **Idaho Partners** web site have been established. **Idaho Partners** will join with their peers across state and international borders to effect change for people with disabilities in the 21st century. Interested people may receive an application by calling the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities in Boise at (208) 334-2178 or (800) 544-2433.

Where can you get more information?

Consumer Education Training workshops for the Community Supports Program may be offered in your local area. If you have a developmental disability, the Developmental Disabilities Program may have services you can use. Find out what they have to offer. Call the Health and Welfare *ACCESS Unit* office nearest your home:

(208) 769-1409 (208) 784-1351 (208) 265-4593
1-800-393-4337 (208) 883-4529 (208) 799-3460 (208) 983-2522 (208) 476-0743
1-800-981-2302 (208) 454-0421
(208) 334-0900 (208) 587-8452
1-800-432-3255 (208) 736-2182 (208) 436-5711
1-800-841-7874 (208) 234-7900 (208) 785-5826
1-800-525-2232 (208) 525-7223 (208) 624-3744 (208) 756-2016 (208) 354-8596

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